

# Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

## 2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 6 29 November 2007, 1400 Hours

*New Information in Bold Italic Type*

### SUMMARY

Statewide precipitation for the previous water year (1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007) was below normal. Despite recent precipitation, exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

### EXECUTIVE ACTION

**EOC Activation:** The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine status and is operating with normal staff.

**State of Emergency:** Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a Statewide Emergency on 18 October 2007 and imposed a statewide ban on all open burning. The statewide ban on open burning was lifted by Governor Timothy M. Kaine on 15 November. The Statewide Emergency remains in effect to deal with potential or actual drought related issues. The Governor has directed State Agencies to provide assistance in dealing with potential or actual drought related issues.

Governor Kaine requested that the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture declare Virginia a statewide disaster area due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures in 2007. The Acting US Secretary of Agriculture designated 78 additional counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas on 18 October 2007 due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing.

Governor Kaine held a Press Conference on 30 October and urged localities to update water conservation and drought contingency ordinances and plans and begin preparations to implement those plans. The Governor also encouraged citizens and businesses to strictly follow all calls for water conservation issued by public waterworks or local governments. [Governor's News Release](#)

**Executive Order:** [Executive Order 57 \(2007\)](#)

### WEATHER FORECAST

**Thursday, 29 Nov:** *Partly to mostly sunny; high temperatures will range low 50's to low 60's; west-northwest winds 10-15 mph with gusts up to 40 mph in Southwest VA. Thursday night:* *Mostly clear; low temperatures will range mid 20's to lower 30's; northwest-northeast winds 5-15 mph. Friday, 30 Nov:* *Mostly sunny; high temperatures will range mid 40's to low 50's; winds will be light and variable. Friday night:* *Partly to mostly cloudy; low temperatures will range low to mid 30's; winds will be light and variable.*

### OPERATIONS SECTION

**ESF 5 –** Emergency Management: Posting event related items to WebEOC under event titled “WebEOC, 2007-10 Drought and Burn Ban”; Participating as member of the Drought Monitoring Task Force; monitoring weather, river flow and precipitation reports; assessing the impact across the Commonwealth

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**State Warning Point:** Normal operations

**Local Liaison:** VDEM Regional Coordinators are monitoring drought impacts to localities in their region. VDEM Region Four Coordinator in contact with Wise County and Town of Appalachia officials reference water supply issue and in contact with Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH**

**ESF 4 – Firefighting:** *Even though the Statewide Ban on Open Burning has been lifted, VA Department of Forestry advises that several localities have implemented their own ban on burning and residents should check with their locality prior to conducting any open burning.* [Local Burn Ban Restrictions](#); [Burn Ban Map](#)

**ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services:** Virginia Department of Health and Office of Drinking Water continue to monitor and stand by for consultation and coordination.

### **HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**

**ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources:** Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported that all counties and independent cities in the Commonwealth have been designated primary disaster areas with the exception of the counties of Arlington and York and the independent cities of Alexandria, Bristol, Falls Church, Norton and Poquoson. These localities have been designated contiguous disaster areas. All Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#); [Crop Status Report](#)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reports that that precipitation in late October increased stream flows in the western part of the state so that all October trout stockings could occur. November stockings are in progress but streamflows continue to decrease. Lake levels are still low in many areas and boat launching may not be possible at some ramps.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH**

**ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering:** The Virginia Department of Health has not reported any impacts to public water supplies that have compromised their ability to provide the needs of their customers; 64 systems have initiated water conservation measures; 27 mandatory water conservation requirements and 37 voluntary water conservation requirements.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued the Town of Appalachia an Emergency Virginia Water Permit to withdraw 500,000 gallons per day from the Powell River and pump it to their reservoir. The permit is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid.

Drought conditions have improved slightly over the Commonwealth during the last month due to one significant rainfall event in late October. Drought conditions have intensified slightly during the first two weeks of November and are likely to intensify further absent additional precipitation. Exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia. The latest NOAA drought monitor indicates the occurrence of drought conditions throughout the majority of the Commonwealth.

Waterworks are encouraged to develop water conservation and contingency plans and local governments are encouraged to adopt local water conservation ordinances. [DEQ Water Conservation Tips](#); [US Drought Monitor - VA](#); [US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

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DEQ chairs the Drought Monitoring Task Force and is conducting bi-weekly conference calls to monitor the drought impact and issues a monthly drought report. [DMTF Report November 2007](#)

### PLANNING SECTION

**Situation/Documentation Unit:** Preparing and distributing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Thursday, 6 December 2007.***

**Mapping/GIS Unit:** Providing maps and graphics related to drought and burn ban.

### LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County declared a local emergency on 31 October due to drought conditions that have caused a severe raw water supply shortage to retail water customers in Wise County. The Mayor and Town Council of Appalachia along with Wise County declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. The Emergency Virginia Water Permit submitted by the town was issued by the VA Department of Environmental Quality and is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid. ***The town has completed installation of the pipe line from the Powell River to the dam and expected to begin pumping operations by 1 December 2007. The town currently has 23.5 million gallons of water available which roughly equates to a 40 day supply. The water conservation efforts have reduced the daily usage from an average of 400,000 gallons per day to 350,000 gallons per day.***

The Town of Dungannon and Scott County declared a local emergency on 9 November due to a water infrastructure issue involving the Town of Dungannon water system. The town is having problems keeping their water storage tank filled and believes they have a major leak in the system which supplies approximately 700 people. ***Leak repaired on 21 November allowed system to hold its own. On 22 November the storage tank held 7.2 feet of water and as 2000 hours, 28 November, the tank held 13.3 feet of water. The tank has a capacity of 39 feet. Water department personnel assisted by water department personnel from Gate City and Scott County Public Service Authority continue checking the system for leak(s). The boil water notice remains in effect and water service is available to all customers at all elevations. Distribution of bottled water has been limited to those without water or who have special medical needs. The Baptist Relief Association mobile laundry/shower unit and the Department Of Corrections water tanker remain on standby at the First Baptist Church in Dungannon.***

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